

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector in the form of a socket contact, comprising:

an inner contact part; and

a spring element adapted to be placed over the inner contact part,

wherein the inner contact part includes:

an attachment part for receiving a bare end of an electrical line,

a center segment, and

a contact segment having a contact part, the contact part having at least three contact lamellae pointing away from the center segment, the contact lamellae being freely movable, each of the contact lamellae having at least one contact point for producing an electrical plug connection to a knife blade; and

wherein the contact lamellae are configured to spring off freely at a beginning of an insertion of a knife blade into the contact segment, and, after further insertion of the knife blade, only free ends of the contact lamellae configured to come to rest against the spring element in direct proximity to the contact point with the knife blade maintaining contact with the contact segment and contact point.

2. (Original) The electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein the contact lamellae are formed in the shape of fingers and are only connected to each other at an end pointing to the center segment.

3. (Original) The electrical connector according to claim 1, further comprising, in a region of the free end of the contact lamellae, support elements situated at an external retention spring.

4. (Original) The electrical connector according to claim 3, wherein the external retention spring substantially completely surrounds the contact part and, thus, forms lateral limiting elements for the contact lamellae.

5. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector in the form of a socket contact, comprising:

an inner contact part; and

a spring element adapted to be placed over the inner contact part,

wherein the inner contact part includes:

an attachment part for receiving a bare end of an electrical line,

a center segment, and

a contact segment having a contact part, the contact part having at least three contact lamellae pointing away from the center segment, the contact lamellae being freely movable, each of the contact lamellae having at least one contact point for producing an electrical plug connection to a knife blade;

wherein the contact lamellae are spaced from the spring element along an entire length of the contact lamellae prior to insertion of a knife blade into the contact part; and

wherein the contact lamellae are configured to interact with the knife blade, which maintains contact with the contact segment and contact point, so as to contact the spring element in direct proximity to the at least one contact point.

6. (Previously Presented) The electrical connector according to claim 5, wherein free ends of the contact lamellae are configured to spring off freely towards the spring element upon partial insertion of a knife blade into the contact part.

7. (Previously Presented) The electrical connector according to claim 5, wherein the free ends of the contact lamellae are configured to contact the spring upon complete insertion of the knife blade.